

Message Text

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17

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-02

NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01

ERDA-07 DOTE-00 HEW-06 /109 W

----- 063698

R 080908Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9990

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS TOKYO 6118

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, SENV, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE AUTOMOBILE EMISSION STANDARDS

REF: TOKYO 2412

1. RECENT REPORTS IN SOME JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT GOJ IS RELAXING NITROGEN OXIDE (NOX) EMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED AUTOMOBILES OUT OF FEAR THAT FOREIGN COUNTRIES WILL RETAILIATE IF NEW 1975 AND 1976 STANDARDS ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. WHILE NOT ALTOGEZV INACCURATE, THESE REPORTS ARE NEVERTHLESS MISLEADING. FOLLOWING IS ACTUAL SITUATION REGARDING APPLICATION OF NEW STANDARDS.

2. TRANSPORT MINISTRY ENFORCEMENT REGULATIONS SPECIFY TWO TOLERANCE LEVELS FOR NOX EMISSIONS: (A) AN AVERAGE LEVEL, AND (B) A (HIGHER) MAXIMUM LEVEL. DOMESTICALLY MANUFACTURED AUTOMOBILES ARE REQUIRED TO MEET THE AVERAGE LEVEL, SUCH LEVEL BEING COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF THREE-MONTH AVERAGES OF RESULTS OF DAILY RANDOM TESTS RUN ON ABOUT ONE PERCENT OF CARS COMING OFF ASSEMBLY LINES (SEE REFTEL). SINCE IMPORTED CARS

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CANNOT BE TESTED ON THIS BASIS, TRANSPORT MINISTRY HAS

DECIDED THAT FOREIGN MODELS IMPORTED IN SMALL NUMBERS (NOT MORE THAN 1,200 PER YEAR) WILL BE QUALIFIED IF THEY MEET THE MAXIMUM LEVEL. IN PRACTICE THIS MEANS THAT ALL FOREIGN MODELS EXCEPT VOLKSWAGON "BEETLE" (14,000 IMPORTED IN 1974) WILL QUALIFY FOR IMPORTATION IF THEY MEET THE MAXIMUM NOX EMISSION LEVEL OF 1.6 GRAMS PER KM IN 1975 AND 1.2 GRAMS PER KM IN 1976. (U.S. MANUFACTURERS PROBABLY CAN MEET THESE STANDARDS.) THIS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS ACCORDING FOREIGN AUTOMOBILES MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT WITH JAPANESE-MADE CARS, SINCE THE AVERAGE TOLERANCES APPLICABLE TO THE LATTER ARE 1.2 AND 0.85 RESPECTIVELY, IN 1975 AND 1976. HOWEVER, MOT DOES NOT ADMIT THAT THIS WAS ITS INTENT.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONFIRM WITH BIG THREE AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION THAT THEY HAVE THE ABOVE INFORMATION.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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